

USGS Rare Earths Report Evidence that Domestic Industry Possible

Identifies Mineral Deposits in Colorado

(WASHINGTON) - Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO) issued the following statement today regarding the release of a United States Geological Survey (USGS) report revealing 13 million metric tons of rare earths exist within known deposits in 14 states including Colorado:

“The USGS report released today is proof that the United States has sufficient rare earth deposits to support a healthy and robust domestic supply chain. While the confirmation of significant deposits of rare earths is encouraging, we will continue to be reliant upon the Chinese for our rare earth needs unless we take action. From renewable energy technologies, to consumer electronics, and even our nation’s most advanced defense weapons systems are highly dependent upon a continued and robust supply of rare earths. In light of today’s report, it is critical that Congress take action and pass comprehensive legislation to address our need.”

The report identifies two separate deposits in Colorado. Both the Iron Hill Carbonatite Complex located approximately 20 miles southwest of Gunnison, Colorado and the Wet Mountains Area of south –central Colorado were noted to contain substantial concentrations of rare earth minerals.

Coffman is the author of H.R. 4866, Rare Earths Supply-Chain Technology and Resources Transformation (RESTART) Act. Coffman previously introduced legislation included in last year’s defense authorization bill requiring the Comptroller General to determine the extent to which specific military weapons systems are currently dependent upon rare-earth materials and the degree to which U.S. is dependent upon sources that could be interrupted or disrupted. That report was completed in April of this year and the

Department of Defense is currently undertaking their own study, due to be completed in the coming weeks.

To see the report, [click here](#) .

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